

# THE GENUFLECTOR MAGAZINE



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*"Do whatever he tells you."*

MAY | 2023



# THE NEED FOR MARY IN OUR LIVES

By: Jack (Editor-in-Chief)

At the cross, Jesus gives us a very important directive, one I feel that is often forgotten by many Catholics — he tells John that Mary is his mother and that John is Mary's son. By doing this, he makes Mary the mother of the world, giving her the role as our intercessor. She, like any mother, is here for her children, and here to defend us against the ills of the world and before her son.

We often turn to Jesus in our lives — he becomes our emergency life line, and although God shouldn't just be our God during emergencies, we truly do bring out the most religious aspects of us during these times. And it is great that we turn to Jesus when we need help — turning to the only thing that can truly bring us complete happiness or solace is natural and logical. But we often forget about turning to our heavenly mother, the mother of our Lord and Savior, our heavenly defender and intercessor: Mary.

Historically, people have been weary of devoting themselves to Mary as our intercessor and making her too prevalent in our lives. But that is a misguided conclusion. Catholics have never and will never worship Mary, but we have and will always honor, respect, and in many cases devote ourselves to Mary. Similarly, we are meant to follow the example of Jesus Christ and the way he lived on this Earth. And during his time here, he did nothing but respect His mother and lead us closer to her.

The importance of Mary and devotion to her in our Church is quite prevalent when you take a look. For example, there are two Churches that bear her name within 5 miles of my home town. Better yet, reflect on this quote from the second eucharistic prayer at mass (which has come the most popular in the United States): "Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God...we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life." We make a point of expressing our devotion to Mary and the help she can give us in the most important part of the mass. That defiantly says something.

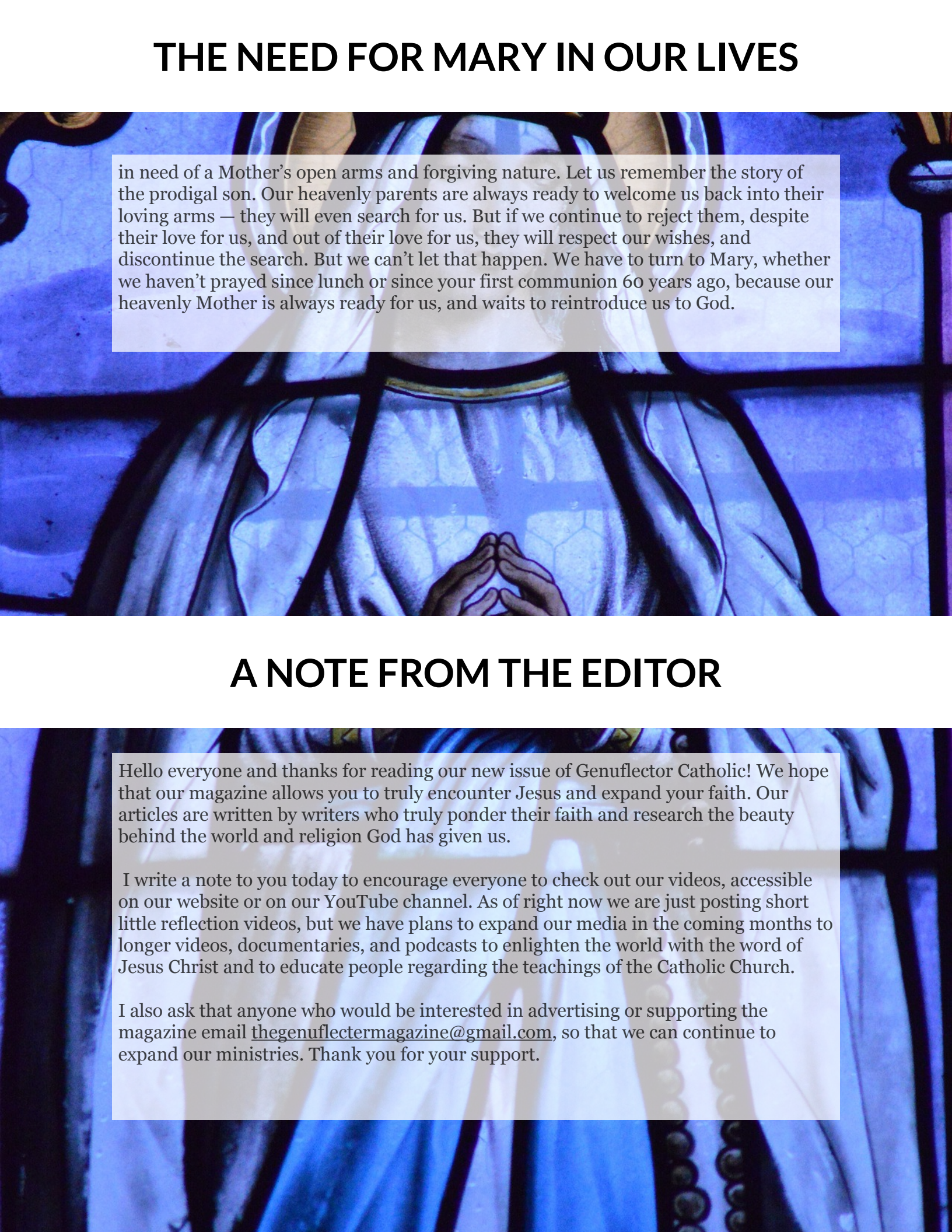
So what's my point, you might be asking. Jesus has told us she is our heavenly mother — so in times of need, times of distress, times of sadness, let us turn to her, let us seek her motherly guidance.

In times of regret, despair, loneliness, guilt, failure, depression, and more, we always have a mother's love that we can turn to. Mary is always there for us to turn to. We should follow the example of our Lord and Savior and make her our heavenly mother. Just as we do our mothers on Earth, we should turn to Mary in our times of most weakness and vulnerability, and truly "let it all out." Cry to the Blessed Mother, Embrace the Blessed Mother, and truly bring your needs before her so that she can intercede for us to her son.

Let us also take a look at the prayer, the Hail Mary. In the second part of the prayer we ask Mary to pray for us, now and always, because like any son, we are broken. We are



# THE NEED FOR MARY IN OUR LIVES

A close-up photograph of a statue of the Virgin Mary. She is wearing a blue mantle over a red gown. Her hands are clasped together in a prayerful gesture, held near her chest. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

in need of a Mother's open arms and forgiving nature. Let us remember the story of the prodigal son. Our heavenly parents are always ready to welcome us back into their loving arms — they will even search for us. But if we continue to reject them, despite their love for us, and out of their love for us, they will respect our wishes, and discontinue the search. But we can't let that happen. We have to turn to Mary, whether we haven't prayed since lunch or since your first communion 60 years ago, because our heavenly Mother is always ready for us, and waits to reintroduce us to God.

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone and thanks for reading our new issue of Genuflector Catholic! We hope that our magazine allows you to truly encounter Jesus and expand your faith. Our articles are written by writers who truly ponder their faith and research the beauty behind the world and religion God has given us.

I write a note to you today to encourage everyone to check out our videos, accessible on our website or on our YouTube channel. As of right now we are just posting short little reflection videos, but we have plans to expand our media in the coming months to longer videos, documentaries, and podcasts to enlighten the world with the word of Jesus Christ and to educate people regarding the teachings of the Catholic Church.

I also ask that anyone who would be interested in advertising or supporting the magazine email [thegenuflectermagazine@gmail.com](mailto:thegenuflectermagazine@gmail.com), so that we can continue to expand our ministries. Thank you for your support.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

By: Jack (Editor-in-Chief)

America has some of the best school systems in the world — people literally move to specific towns in America and pay higher taxes to take advantage of these school systems. And there is nothing wrong with that, as these schools often provide an excellent education. But there is one thing missing from a secular education and that is the faith factor.

Before I get deeper into this topic, I want to address one thing. I have just a little bit of bias towards Catholic schools as I had a Catholic education for K-12. But, I do have a nuanced opinion on the issue, as I have done extensive research on the educational system in our country. So, yes, I do come to you with a bias in this article, but that is in addition to the nuanced opinion I plan to deliver.

One of the most powerful aspects of a Catholic education is the sense of community that is created by the school masses, prayer services, and family events. It is during these events that students, teachers, staff, administrators, and more gather to pray and humble themselves before God. So without a doubt, the community that is found within a Catholic school is unmatched.

One of my favorite events from my time at Catholic school was the adoration events that the school held occasionally. This is where, as a community, we truly met Jesus. During adoration, you truly come face-to-face with Jesus. And it is when we are in front of Jesus we are most honest, for God knows all, therefore, there would be no reason to lie. These events were surreal moments of prayer — an army of worshippers all humbling themselves before God.

In addition to the community and prayer one experiences through a Catholic education, there is one more very important reason to seek out a Catholic education when possible for children: values. Religious institutions are founded on the values of that religion. The education provided by a Catholic school reinforces the Catholic morals, values, and social teachings that are crucial to building a more unified and safer society. Furthermore, it is the hope of Catholic educators that students have hopefully been raised with these values, allowing for additional reinforcement at home.

Although I strongly believe a Catholic education is the best way to educate the youth, obviously not all Catholics can or will send their children to Catholic schools for various reasons. It is because of this I urge parents to make sure their children are taking their religious education work seriously and are working to engage in their faith. The religious education sacramental preparation requires more than just the student doing the work and learning — it requires parents reinforcing this information. It is because of the need for religious education in our country, that I am proud to announce that we will be publishing an online curriculum for parishes to use, free of charge, so that all children can get an excellent understanding of their faith.



# PROVING OUR GOD'S EXISTENCE

By: Jack (Editor-in-Chief)

This might be the most important article I have ever written. So many Catholics profess the Catholic faith yet can not defend it when posed with debate or questions. That is why for the next few issues of the magazine, I will be including an apologetics article as the last article. For this issue's apologetics article, I will be starting with the basics — proving God's existence.

Throughout history there have been numerous proofs for God's existence, some more faith based, others more logic based. I will be making use of a number of these, and I suggest you read them all, as each of them provides insight into our God.

1 — The first proof of God's existence I want to discuss is often called the "The First Cause Argument." There is a famous phrase that comes with this argument — "something can not come from nothing." Thinking about this logically, nothing in the universe can simply come out of nothing. We wouldn't say that a pencil just appeared, a fully grown polar bear just appeared out of thin air, or that a 36 year old human just popped into existence. We wouldn't say any of those things because they are illogical. The same goes for the universe. By saying the universe just "popped" into existence, we disregard a logical truth that something truly can not come from nothing. Secondly, let us discuss the Big Bang. The Big Bang could have very well occurred and created conditions for life on Earth, but what started the Big Bang? The Big Bang came from within the universe and using logic we know that nothing in the universe could have created the universe, therefore, the Big Bang didn't create the universe. What set the Big Bang into motion? What truly created the cosmos and our planet? There is only one answer left — a being which can create out of nothing, an immaterial being who loves us so much that he willed us into existence. God is the first cause. God set everything into motion.

2 — The second argument for God's existence comes from our desires in our life, and simply a logical argument. Throughout our life, we have a desire to be completely happy and satisfied. No matter what one says or thinks, they in the end, truly want to be happy. But we know that nothing on this earth will ever completely satisfy. Yes, there will be amazing times of great joy, such as the birth of a child or getting married, but there will always be things to bring your spirits down, things that are meant to make you upset. Therefore complete happiness isn't an option on Earth. But we know that the desire is there. Therefore, if there is a desire for something, that means that the fulfillment must exist somewhere. We wouldn't innately desire something unless we knew it was attainable. Therefore, although we may not definitely receive complete happiness, it exists, and it isn't on this earth. Therefore it must exist somewhere greater, somewhere where happiness and love prevail.

3 — The third proof of God's existence that I have always found quite interesting is often called the "Argument from the Human Brain" Through this proof, we analyze all that is in this universe, specifically the human brain. Let us use the atheist argument



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for a second, that God is truly not real and that we were created out of mere chance (everything went perfect so that conditions for human life were met, and humans were born). If we are here out of chance, that would mean that our brain was the result of chance. In our society, we often do not trust things that come from chance — why would we trust our brains then. Without God, without an intelligent being that created us and our brains, we truly wouldn't be able to trust them, since they would be the result of mere chance.

4 — The fourth argument for the existence of God I want to mention is St. Thomas Aquinas's third proof: The Argument from Contingency. In this argument, Aquinas points out something quite logical, but something often forgotten in our society — we didn't have to exist. Whether we were the result of a loving God who created us or the result of mere chance, we didn't have to exist. We are not logical necessities. Furthermore, we are all contingent beings. Our existence relies on another being for its existence. We relied on our parents, our parents relied on our grandparents, and so on. No human being can come to life on its own, yet when we trace back to our original parents, we must question how they came to life. On what being is their existence contingent on? And that is where Aquinas says God comes into play — in a universe of contingent beings, there must be at least one being who isn't contingent, one being who doesn't rely on another being for its existence. This being is God. God is eternal and was never created. He creates.

5 — The last argument for God's existence isn't so much a proof as it is a logical bet. It is often known as "Paschal's Wager," created by philosopher Blaise Pascal. Pascal presents a simple bet — the only way to win is by betting on God being real. If you choose to say that God isn't real and you are right, nothing happens and you die — end of story. If you choose to say God is real and you are right, you are met with salvation (hopefully). If you choose to say God is real and you are wrong, then nothing happens. You die — end of story. Now, if God is real and you say he isn't, and live your life as an atheist, you could be facing eternal damnation. Therefore, for the betting man, the only true way to "win" is by betting on God.

There are SO many more proofs of God's existence, so many more that I could literally fill up at least 10 more pages. But I simply wanted to provide you with a little taste of the arguments for God's existence. I also selected these because I feel they are some of the strongest and most logical out there. Remember — always try to educate yourself on the faith. The more you know, the more you can defend what you believe in.



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